



Alhambra-San Gabriel (CA) Branch serving the cities of Alhambra, San Gabriel, Monterey Park and Montebello

# The Mission Gateway

## Local High School Students Speak Up Are Men and Women Truly Equal Today, or Are The Suffragists of 1920 Still Suffering in 2020?



On Saturday, February 8<sup>th</sup>, some very bright, insightful, eloquent high school students will provide their answers in the first phase of AAUW California's Eleanor Stem Allen Memorial Speech Trek.

Speech Trek is an annual speaking contest open to all California high school students, whether from public, private, home or continuation high schools.

Students from our local high schools have a winning record. In the 13 years since the contest began, six finalists have come from one of our local schools:

- 2019 Dominique Ruedaflores, 1<sup>st</sup> place
- 2017 Sabrina Sy, 3<sup>rd</sup> place
- 2016 Sharon Lu, 1<sup>st</sup> place
- 2015 Caitlyn Cook, 5<sup>th</sup> place
- 2013 Pavin Trinh, 1<sup>st</sup> place
- 2009 Alexandra Lossada, 2<sup>nd</sup> place

Don't miss this inspiring event!



Students prepare an original 5- to 6-minute speech, which is judged for content, organization, and delivery. The first place winner of the contest conducted by the Alhambra/San Gabriel Branch of AAUW on February 8<sup>th</sup> will receive \$100. The second place winner at the state contest will receive \$50, and the third place winner will receive \$25. A video recording of the first place speech will be posted on Youtube for review by a panel of State Speech Trek judges along with winners from throughout the state.

Speech Trek continued on next page...

**1:00 PM on Saturday, February 8<sup>th</sup>**  
**Alhambra Unified School District**  
**Headquarters**  
**1515 West Mission Road, Alhambra**  
**Open to the Public**

Betty Morin, President • Delora Brown, Secretary • Joe Des Barres, Treasurer • Jim Doty, Newsletter Editor  
Kathleen Doty, AAUW Fund VP • Deanna Arthur, Membership VP • Elena Velarde, Program VP

In principle and practice AAUW values and seeks a diverse membership. There shall be no barriers to full participation in this organization on the basis of gender, race, creed, age, sexual orientation, national origin or disability.

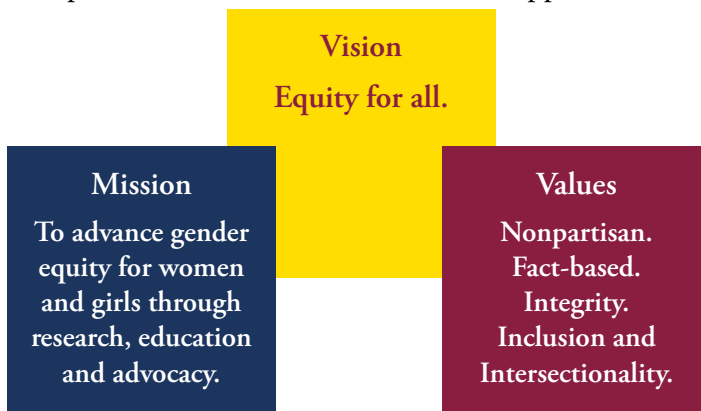
**Speech Trek** continued from Page 1...

The State Speech Trek judges will identify five finalists, two of whom will be named as Honorable Mention. The judges will invite the top three finalists to compete for cash prizes at the state convention on Saturday, April 18, 2020, at the Westin San Francisco Airport Hotel. Travel expenses, lodging, and meals for each finalist and her/his chaperone will be reimbursed by Speech Trek.

The first place winner at the state contest will receive \$1500. The second place winner at the state contest will receive \$1000, and the third place winner will receive \$500. The finalists who received honorable mention also receive cash prizes: \$250 for 4<sup>th</sup> place and \$150 for 5<sup>th</sup> place.

## What's AAUW Public Policy All About?

Since AAUW's founding in 1881, our advocates have taken positions on the fundamental issues of the day – educational, social, economic, and political. Our positions emanate from our Mission, Vision and Values: Our positions are rooted in our member-approved



Public Policy Priorities at both the national and state levels. The AAUW California Public Policy Priorities for 2019-2021 were approved by our members last spring, and can be found on the website (<https://www.aauw-ca.org/proposed-aauw-ca-public-policy-action-priorities-2019-2021/>).

The AAUW California Public Policy Committee meets early in each legislative session to review bills

and determine those on which to take action. In Washington, AAUW staff and volunteer advocates communicate with both Congress and the administration. In California, we employ a part-time lobbyist to represent AAUW California in the California Legislature.

Economic Security is a critical issue for women of all ages, a foundational aspect of everyday life, and is particularly important to women's ability to support themselves and their families. Many continue to struggle with economic insecurity, wage discrimination, and employment benefits. Legislated solutions could benefit many women.

Real change in federal and state policy, however, will only come about when our elected officials hear from voters, like us! It is so important that branch members be up to date on AAUW positions on federal and state legislation consistent with AAUW's mission, and that branch members contact elected officials to share our positions. Finally, we must hold those we have elected accountable as they vote on issues affecting women and girls.

Become involved with our branch's Public Policy Committee. You can download and print a copy of the Public Policy Priorities. Become an activist, by signing up on the national website <https://www.aauw.org/what-we-do/public-policy/two-minute-activist/>. This will connect you with both state and national calls to action.

Start now! It's not too soon to begin educating yourself about the issues in the important 2020 elections!

*Kathleen*



Save the dates! The Pasadena Showcase House of Design will be open April 26-May 17, 2020. The house is in Arcadia. Tech Trek North will need AAUW members, family, and friends to staff four-hour shifts at the house. This is our biggest fundraiser. We'll have detailed information in the March *Mission Gateway*.

*Bonnie*

She-oes

# “Lest We Forget”: Yoshiko Uchida



Yoshiko Uchida

Uchida, Yoshiko (1921-1992) was an author of children’s books and born in Alameda, California. She was a senior at the University of California at Berkeley when authorities detained her father and sent him away to an internment camp. A

few months later, Yoshiko, her sister and mother were sent to a temporary internment camp at an abandoned race track. She finished her college degree in a horse stall, a typical shelter for the evacuees. The family was reunited at Camp Topaz in Utah.

In 1943, Uchida left the camp to attend graduate school at Smith College in Massachusetts. However, the time she spent in the camps left an indelible impression on her and the close confinement with other Japanese prisoners deepened her appreciation and knowledge of her heritage. The internment experience led Uchida to question her place as both a Japanese and an American, a theme she pursued in a several decades of writing.

After the war, Uchida taught at a Quaker school outside Philadelphia, but then moved to New York City to work as a secretary which allowed her more time to write. She published her first book, *The Dancing Kettle and Other Japanese Folk Tales*, in 1949. A few years later, in 1952, she received a Ford Foundation Fellowship to study culture, customs, and folk tales abroad in Japan. Upon returning to the United States, Uchida went on to publish over 30 books. Some of her works explore themes of cultural isolation and feelings of betrayal by friends and neighbors that Uchida and her family experienced at the time.

Our branch website is  
[alhsangab-ca.aauw.net](http://alhsangab-ca.aauw.net)

# President’s Message

Thank you for your past participation in our branch’s activities and I look forward to your increased participation in 2020, the Year of the 100th Anniversary of the passage of the 19th Amendment authorizing the Women’s Right to Vote. There will be many opportunities for you to engage in activities associated with that issue this year as well as to exercise your constitutional right to vote:



Betty Morin

The California Primary Election is scheduled for March 3, 2020, earlier this year with a new procedure in place. (Vote! Vote! Vote!)

On March 8, LACIC is sponsoring a “100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment” event at the Women’s City Club of Pasadena. Don your Suffragette paraphernalia and meet AAUW members from all over Los Angeles County (see flyer).

Attend the April 17–19 AAUW California convention and hear more about ballot measures that align to AAUW’s mission.

Attend the April 20 branch Annual Meeting to enjoy our first “Readers’ Theatre” production featuring “Eleanor Roosevelt” and renowned personalities who visit with her to discuss the struggle to establish women’s rights.

At this same Annual Meeting, you will be called upon to vote on two issues: (1) a proposal important to the financial health of the branch as well as (2) the slate of incoming 2020-21 Board officers. More information to follow. (Vote! Vote! Vote!)

And the main event, the November, 2020 Presidential election. (Vote! Vote! Vote!)

So in case my message was not clearly presented, exercise your right to...

Betty

**Vote! Vote! Vote!**

**LACIC IS THROWING A TEA PARTY AND YOU'RE INVITED!**



**Sunday, March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2020 (International Women's Day)**

**LACIC Centennial Tea**

**Women's City Club of Pasadena**

**160 N Oakland Avenue, Pasadena 91101**

**2:00 pm to 4:00 pm**

**(free parking is accessed off Madison)**

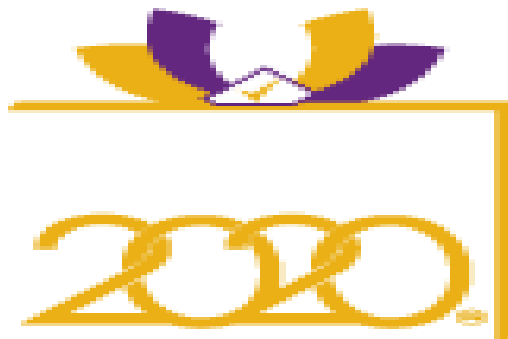
**womenscityclubofpasadena.com**

**We're celebrating the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the passage of the 19<sup>th</sup> amendment – Constitutionally guaranteeing women the right to vote - and inviting your branch members to join us. If possible, come dressed in appropriate suffragist costume; but by all means do wear a hat. Nan Johnson, the woman who lead the charge for producing the suffragist float, *Years of Hope, Years of Courage*, will be our guest speaker.**

**Reservations for the High Tea are on a first come, first served basis. Cost is \$30 per person and checks should be made payable to:**

**LACIC**

**c/o Ginny Hatfield, 11579 Hesby Street, Valley Village, CA 91601**



**REPLY REQUESTED BY MARCH 4**

# AAUW Fund

We all joined AAUW to make a difference. Whether Tech Trek, Speech Trek, or some other program has caught your fancy, your membership supports our work and champions our causes. The AAUW Fund empowers women and girls in a variety of ways, from fellowships and grants to leadership, to pay equity. Dining with the Dotys is an easy way to support the Fund and possibly win a dining event you will remember for a long time. 100% of the ticket proceeds support the Fund. The cost is minimal - \$10 for one ticket, \$25 for three. Tickets are available at all branch activities as well as by contacting me directly. Get yours before the drawing at our branch annual meeting on April 20th and know you are supporting great causes.

*Kathleen*

AAUW Fund Trivia for February: Did you know that AAUW awarded Geneticist Barbara McClintock the AAUW Achievement Award in 1947? She went on to win a Nobel Prize in 1983.

## AAUW Fund Raffle

### Dining with the Dotys



Let us prepare a semi-formal dinner for you and three of your friends in our home in Alhambra on May 9<sup>th</sup> (or as arranged). Raffle tickets are \$10 each - 3 for \$25. Please make checks payable to "AAUW Fund". All tickets and proceeds must be turned in by April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2020 to the Dotys (1224 S. 4<sup>th</sup> St., Alhambra, CA 91801).

The winning ticket will be drawn on April 20, 2020.

Ticket holders do not need to be present at the drawing to win.

One hundred percent of ticket proceeds will be donated to AAUW Fund to help complete unfinished AAUW California endowments. Questions? Call 626-284-0763

#### **Risk Averse?**

We also will prepare a semi-formal dinner for you and three of your friends if you donate \$500 or more to AAUW Fund through Dining with the Dotys.

# Membership News

As I have been known to say, AAUW is the best kept secret. How can people join us if they don't know who we are or what our mission is? Keep pounding the pavement to let every one know what great programs that we have. We are not just Tech Trek even though it is one of our most popular programs.

Most of our friends already belong but look what the program committee was able to accomplish with the Father Boyle meeting. We have over 100 non-members attending. If anyone joins that night they will be able to join by paying only 1/2 National dues, 1/2 state dues and branch dues. Maybe we will get some new members. Please ask if you want to know how about how to gift a membership or want to spend the time to get a non-degreed individual accepted into AAUW.

*Deanna*

# The Time Has Come!

You may have noticed that, in this historic 75<sup>th</sup> year of the Alhambra-San Gabriel Branch, the *Mission Gateway* has had some reflective commentaries observing changes in prices over the years, especially in relation to Branch dues, which were \$5 in 1944 and are \$18 now.

Those of us who have been serving you on the Branch Board of Directors have worked diligently to create and stay within budgets based on branch dues which have not changed in 25 years. At the start of this year, trying yet again to formulate a working budget with the current dues, your Board decided to explore raising dues for the 2020-2021 year. We researched Branch history to determine when and how often dues have been raised. We looked at inflation and the value of those dues in 2019 dollars: \$18 dues in 1985, if they kept pace with inflation would be \$42.03 in 2019.

All of this study led us to the decision that branch dues should be increased. Ultimately, the board agreed to present a \$3 increase in branch dues to you, the members, at our annual meeting. If you approve, and we hope you do, the branch dues for 2020-2021 will be \$21 and the total dues, including Association and State, will be \$100. Your board feels this increase is just enough to provide some relief for our budget.

We have done our best for 25 years, but the time has come for us to pay a little more to continue to pursue education and equity for women and girls.

*Kathleen*



Deanna Arthur and the AAUW California Board of Directors participated in the 4th Annual Women's March on January 18th in San Diego, where the board held its quarterly meeting.

## Opportunity Knocks: Providing For Growth

Elaine Johnson, Chair  
 Leadership Development Committee  
 AAUW California  
[leaderdev@aauw-ca.org](mailto:leaderdev@aauw-ca.org)

As AAUW members, we have the chance to respond to opportunity when it knocks. By taking on leadership roles at the branch or state level, we are afforded an opportunity to contribute as well as to benefit. The good news is that support is available for anyone who is willing to become a leader. AAUW California has one-day leadership training events (Leadership Days), regional workshops, and webinars to help build your skills. There are also some wonderful tools available on the national website [aauw.org](http://aauw.org), including the "Leader Essential" training materials.

If you need some inspiration to become a leader a great resource is the November 2019 Issue of National Geographic that focuses on Women: A Century of Change.

As we move into the year 2020, we can celebrate the passage of the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment granting women the right to vote. We can also celebrate the talents that each of us brings to our organization.

Action is in progress:

- Leadership Development Workshop in Marin
- April 17-19: Leadership Development Workshop at the convention

- Leadership Development Workshop in Southern California.
- Alignment of this committee with the strategic plan of AAUW California.

Please contact the Leadership Development Committee chair to add your requests and ideas for your branch. Members of the Leadership Committee are happy that they each said yes to a leadership role and hope you will do so as well.

## Register for Convention Now!

If you are internet enabled, you can register now for the 2020 state convention via the AAUW California website ([aauw-ca.org](http://aauw-ca.org)). The convention will be April 17<sup>th</sup> through the 19<sup>th</sup> at the Westin San Francisco Airport Hotel in Milbrae. If you are not internet enabled, you will be able to register through the mail using a form in the upcoming winter issue of the *California Perspective*.

You will find plenty of rewarding experiences at the convention, and you can enhance the experience (and receive a \$75 refund) by volunteering!

## It's Not Too Late

Janice Lee, Chair  
 Nominations & Elections  
 AAUW California  
[nominating@aauw-ca.org](mailto:nominating@aauw-ca.org)

YOU can still nominate a candidate or YOU can still run for a director or secretary position on AAUW California's Board of Directors.

YOU can still make an impact and use your skills and talents and commitment to moving AAUW California forward.

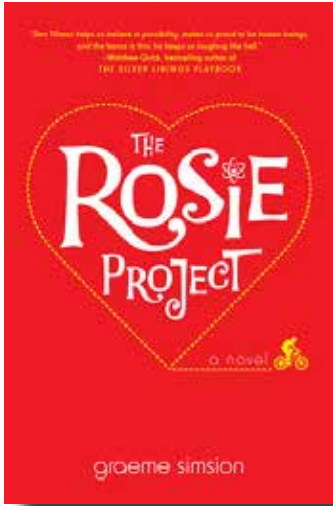
All applications must be in by April 4, 2020.

Eight candidates have already sent in their applications. Their statements are on the state website [aauw-ca.org/2020-candidates/](http://aauw-ca.org/2020-candidates/).

Information about the 2020 AAUW California nomination and election process can be found on the state website [aauw-ca.org/elections-nominations/](http://aauw-ca.org/elections-nominations/).

Have questions or need clarification on board responsibilities? Give me a call: 323-687-3269 or email us: [nominating@aauw-ca.org](mailto:nominating@aauw-ca.org).

## February 19 Books Group<sup>1</sup>



Originally scheduled for January, this hilarious, feel-good novel is narrated by an oddly charming and socially challenged genetics professor on an unusual quest: to find out if he is capable of true love.

Don Tillman, professor of genetics, has never been on a second date. He is a man who can count all his friends on the fingers of one hand, whose lifelong

difficulty with social rituals has convinced him that he is simply not wired for romance. So when an acquaintance informs him that he would make a “wonderful” husband, his first reaction is shock. Yet he must concede to the statistical probability that there is someone for everyone, and he embarks upon The Wife Project. In the orderly, evidence-based manner with which he approaches all things, Don sets out to find the perfect partner. She will be punctual and logical—most definitely not a barmaid, a smoker, a drinker, or a late-arriver.

Yet Rosie Jarman is all these things. She is also beguiling, fiery, intelligent—and on a quest of her own. She is looking for her biological father, a search that a certain DNA expert might be able to help her with. Don's Wife Project takes a back burner to the Father Project and an unlikely relationship blooms, forcing the scientifically minded geneticist to confront the spontaneous whirlwind that is Rosie—and the realization that love is not always what looks good on paper.

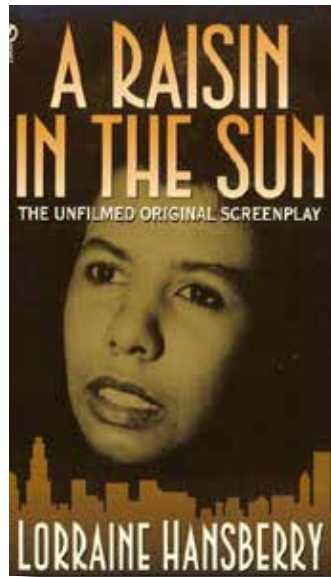
*The Rosie Project* is a moving and hilarious novel for anyone who has ever tenaciously gone after life or love in the face of overwhelming challenges.

<sup>1</sup>Book Group members can purchase books on the group's reading list at Vroman's Books in Pasadena for a **reduced price**. Go to the "Will Call" window on the second floor and tell them the name of the book and also that you are a member of "Alhambra San Gabriel AAUW."

**Our Facebook page is**

[AAUW-Alhambra-San-Gabriel-Branch](#)

## February 10 Drama Group



*A Raisin in the Sun* by Lorraine Hansberry is set on Chicago's South Side. The plot revolves around the divergent dreams and conflicts within three generations of the Younger family: son Walter Lee, his wife Ruth, his sister Beneatha, his son Travis, and matriarch Lena. When her deceased husband's insurance money comes through, Mama Lena dreams of moving to a new home and a better neighborhood in

Chicago. Walter Lee, a chauffeur, has other plans: buying a liquor store and being his own man. Beneatha dreams of medical school. The tensions and prejudice they face form this seminal American drama. The Younger family's heroic struggle to retain dignity in a harsh and changing world is a searing and timeless document of hope and inspiration.

When Lorraine Hansberry's (1930-1965) *A Raisin in the Sun* appeared on Broadway in 1959, the artist became at twenty-nine the youngest American playwright, the fifth woman, and the only African American to date to win the New York Drama Critics Circle Award for Best Play of the Year. The play represented a landmark.

**Our MeetUp.com page is**

[Am. Assoc. Univ. Women -- Alhambra, San Gabriel, Monterey Pk](#)

## *Mission Gateway*

Articles relating to AAUW's mission or Branch activities are gladly accepted. Material for the *Mission Gateway* must be received no later than the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month prior to the intended month of publication.

# ACTIVITIES

Where the Fun will be in February

New faces, and used ones, are always welcomed.

Join Us!

**Board Meeting** Monday, February 3<sup>rd</sup> in Betty Morin's home, 1280 Crest Vista Dr. in Monterey Park. Open to all members. The meeting convenes at 7:30 PM, but members may arrive at 7:00 PM to socialize.

Any branch member may bring a proposal in writing [including email] to the board for discussion and action at its regular meeting by requesting the president to include the proposal as an agenda item at least seven days before agenda is published or may request to speak to the proposal at board meeting.



**Drama Group** will read *Raisin in the Sun* by Lorraine Hansberry at 7:30 PM on Monday, February 8<sup>th</sup>. Contact Kathleen Doty for details.

**Professional Women Gourmets** will dine at Smitty's at 110 S. Lake Ave. in Pasadena at 5:30 PM on Saturday, February 1<sup>st</sup>. We will be in the back room. Jane Anderson will pay for your drink, tax and tip. Please bring cash to pay for your food. Contact Jane Anderson (misclay1@charter.net or 626-862-1269) by January 29<sup>th</sup>.



**Speech Trek**, 1:00 PM on Saturday, February 8<sup>th</sup> at Alhambra Unified School District Headquarters, 1515 West Mission Road in Alhambra. Details on page 1.

**Books** will discuss *The Rosie Project* by Graeme Simsion at 2:00 PM on Wednesday, February 19<sup>th</sup>. Contact Kathleen Doty for details.



**Restaurant Gourmets** dine at 6:30 PM on Saturday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>, at The Derby, 233 Huntington Dr. in Arcadia. Please contact Deanna Arthur at least two days before the event to be included in the reservation.

**Meetup** - at 6:30 PM on Wednesday, February 26<sup>th</sup> at Limerick's Tavern, 300 W. Main St. in Alhambra. Come and share the events of your day with a like-minded group of humans. Hosted by Deanna Arthur.

## Need a ride?

Want to make new friends?

Want to take a leap into Technology?

Many members would be happy to pick up or drop off other members. Please call or email Deanna Arthur, Jane Anderson or Sandy Jelinek if you want to ride or are able to offer a ride so we can set up a buddy list. For those offering rides, let us know how far you are willing to go pick up someone.

Want to try something new and different? Call Uber or Lyft for a ride (smartphone "app" not necessary).



San Fernando Valley Branch is holding an opportunity drawing this "Suffrage Now!" quilt. The 41" x 49" quilt by member Jan Livingston honors 12 women whose sacrifices helped gain women's suffrage. Tickets are \$1 each, 6 for \$5. Proceeds will help provide scholarships for National Conference for College Women Student Leaders (NCCWSL) students. The drawing will be at the Los Angeles County Interbranch Council Centennial Tea on March 8<sup>th</sup> at the Women's City Club of Pasadena. Contact Jan Livingston at 818-439-0831 or [janlivingston@mac.com](mailto:janlivingston@mac.com) to purchase tickets.